

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-36 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 17 have been rejected. Claims 3-16, 19-32 have been objected to by the Examiner. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 33-36 have been indicated as allowable, as well as the comments regarding the amendments to claims 1 and 17.

Claims 1 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,025,818 ("Okano") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,588 (Kawahara et al., hereinafter "Kawahara").

In making the rejection of claims 1 and 17, the Examiner states,

The amendments to claims 1 and 17 merely include "a block of pixels of predetermined size having the current frame pixel inside the block of pixels". There is no mention of the requirement of a group of pixels in considering the previous frame [sic]. Further, the 'block of pixels' could be a block the size of a single pixel only including the current pixel. Therefore, the amendments to claims 1 and 17 do not overcome the previous rejections because Okano considers a block of pixels including the current frame pixel where the block is a single pixel in size.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 17 recite a "block of pixels", which means plural pixels, and should have been allowable as previously presented. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 17 to further indicate that the claimed "block of pixels" comprises a plurality of pixels, and added the recitation "for the current frame and the previous frame" to indicate that the block of pixels is used for calculating a difference between "each pixel in the current frame of the image signal and a pixel corresponding to the current frame pixel in a previous frame of the image signal using a block of pixels, comprising a

plurality of pixels, of predetermined size having the current frame pixel inside the block of pixels for the current frame and the previous frame" as recited in claim 1.

Conclusion

The Applicants have provided amendments to Claims 1 and 17. For the reasons stated by the Examiner, the claims are now distinguished from the cited prior art and, as a result, those claims are believed to be patentable in light thereof. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 17 under § 103(a).

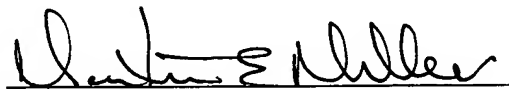
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding these amendments or arguments, the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney, listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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